

DENE-METIS NEGOTIATIONS SECRETARIAT

March 2, 1984

DENE-METIS NEGOTIATIONS SECRETARIAT

The Honourable John E. Manley
Minister of Indian and Northern
Affairs
Room 2200
Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 6K7

Dear Sir:

INUVIALUIT FINAL AGREEMENT

We are very concerned about the delay that has occurred in the last month, respectively Cabinet review of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. In particular, we are concerned about the opposition to the agreement recently voiced by some Inuvialuit businessmen and the Inuvialuit Government, and the effects of this opposition on the Government of Canada's commitment to the Inuvialuit claims.

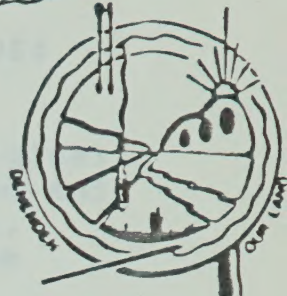
Recent opposition to CWT's agreement by businessmen and the IIG has settled around several issues. First, the affirmative action clauses in the agreement were criticized. When you and CWT declared that you were willing to be bound on these provisions, the Inuvialuit Government was told that the legitimate concerns about the North Slope were that the management structure proposed for the Inuvialuit and Inuvialuit agreements should be competitive. That problem seems to be resolved through negotiation of a matter of fact. It is the Inuvialuit Government's position that there is no need for control of the North Slope involved in the agreement. It is also the fact that CWT has now been "Canadianized" and is a Canadian company. It is precisely because the Canadian government and the north has failed to transfer certain land and other

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DENE-METIS NEGOTIATIONS SECRÉTARIAT



March 8, 1984

The Honourable John C. Munro
Minister of Indian and Northern
Affairs
House of Commons
Confederation Building
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A7

Dear Sir:

Re: Inuvialuit Final Agreement

We are very concerned about the delay that has occurred in the last month, respecting Cabinet review of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. In particular, we are concerned about the opposition to the agreement recently voiced by some northern businessmen and the Yukon Government, and the effects of this opposition on the Government of Canada's commitment to settle aboriginal claims.

Recent opposition to COPE's agreement by businessmen and the YTG has shifted ground several times. First, the affirmative action clauses in the agreement were criticized. When you and COPE declared that you were willing to be flexible on those provisions, the Yukon North Slope became the issue. The legitimate concern about the North Slope was that the management structures proposed in the Inuvialuit and Yukon Indian agreements should be compatible. That problem seems to have been resolved through negotiation in a matter of days. Still, the Yukon Government is complaining that there is too much native control of the North Slope involved in the agreement, and most recently that COPE has won too much "Canadian real estate" in its settlement. It is precisely because Euro-Canadian settlement of the north has tended to transform northern land and resources

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into market commodities, or "real estate", that aboriginal peoples need their relationship to the land recognized and protected in aboriginal rights settlements. Moreover, Inuvialuit lands under the COPE agreement would all be located outside the Yukon Territory.

The basic message that the Yukon Government and certain businessmen seem to be giving you and northern aboriginal peoples is that either aboriginal claims should not be settled, or they should be settled in such a way that aboriginal rights should be diminished - in any event, aboriginal peoples should not have any economic clout, or any substantial control or ownership over northern land and resources. The message ignores the fact of aboriginal rights and runs directly contrary to the policy of the Government of Canada. The Government of Canada has been fully committed to the comprehensive claims policy and to the protection of aboriginal rights by constitutional and legislative means. Your department's northern development policy hinges on a fair and just settlement of aboriginal claims.

The concern of the Dene/Metis with the overlap implications of the Inuvialuit agreement should not be confused with the recent attacks on the agreement by businessmen and the YTG. Our concern is that the agreement should not achieve its purpose for the Inuvialuit at the expense of defeating the purpose of a Dene/Metis settlement in the overlap area. Our concern is to protect the aboriginal rights of both groups, not to diminish the rights of either. I am optimistic that the overlap agreement reached in February will lead to the resolution of our concerns.

We urge you to present the Inuvialuit agreement to Cabinet as soon as possible and to maintain your resolve to negotiate and settle northern aboriginal claims.

Yours very truly,

Stephen Kakfwi
President, Dene Nation

Larry Tourangeau
President, Metis Association

c.c. The Right Honourable
Pierre Elliott Trudeau

The Honourable Mark MacGuigan

Mr. Peter Green

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